



United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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**Contact:** Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer  
United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
219 S. Dearborn St., #2514A  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-435-5693

**Chief Judge Castillo Welcomes Illinois High Schoolers Participating in  
“We the People” State Finals**

Chicago, Ill. - On December 8, 2017, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois State Finals of We the People State Hearings at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse. More than 180 high school students, representing eight Illinois high schools, demonstrated their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution.

Chief Judge Rubén Castillo personally welcomed the participants and competition judges to the courthouse, and indicated their visit had renewed his faith in the future of our democracy.

During the day-long competition students had the opportunity to evaluate, take and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues before a simulated congressional hearing committee consisting of constitutional scholars, lawyers, government leaders and civic educators who judged the classes' performances.

The Illinois We the People program, which aims to promote civic competence and responsibility among today's youth, is sponsored by the Illinois Center for Civic Education.

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Photos provided by Illinois Center for Civic Education